

Lesson 9

Teaching Your Children to Respect Others

Elevating Lives Through Godly Respect

Before you begin:

Read the Following Passages:

- 1 John 4.7-11
- Philippians 2.3-4
- Acts 17.28
- 2 Corinthians 5.9-10
- 1 Peter 2.17
- Ephesians 5.22-33
- Exodus 20.12
- Romans 13.1-2
- Proverbs 3.9
- 1 Samuel 2.30

In today's fast-paced society, the concept of respect has been largely forgotten. Self-centeredness and the pursuit of personal desires often overshadow the need to respect others. However, as Christians, we are called to serve the needs of others. Both John and Paul speak on the importance of deference and sacrificial love:

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another, 1 John 4.7-11.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others, Philippians 2.3-4.

In this lesson, we will explore the true meaning of respect and honor, why it is essential to respect God and all people, and we will draw out a few practical applications to show respect in our daily

lives.

Defining Respect

Respect, derived from the Latin word "respicare," means to "regard, look back." In modern terms, it is associated with giving attention, careful observation, and showing deferential regard and esteem. Various words, such as honor, regard, deference, veneration, and reverence, are linked to the concept of respect. However, there are also some misunderstandings about respect. For example, it does not imply fear, servility, or being naive to the mistakes of others. Instead of something demeaning, respect and honor actually elevates lives and attracts God's blessings. The scriptures from both the Old and New Testaments serve as a guide in understanding the transformative impact of honor and respect.

We Must Respect God

Our relationship with God should not be indifferent; instead, we must recognize His relevance in every aspect of our lives. It was Paul who said:

For in him we live and move and have our being, Acts 17:28.

Trying to compartmentalize God into certain areas while keeping others for ourselves is flawed thinking and can lead to spiritual disaster. We should approach our faith with utmost seriousness and diligence, seeking to obey God's commandments fully, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10. Let us not be superficial in our attachment to God but rather genuinely seek a profound connection with Him.

When We Have Proper Respect for God, We Will:

Honor Everyone (1 Peter 2:17)

Respecting others starts with honoring our marriage partners. Husbands and wives should love, honor, and respect each other, seeking each other's higher good, Ephesians 5:22-33. Additionally, we must respect and honor those who are older than us. The Bible has long emphasized the importance of respecting elders, attributing glory and dignity to age and wisdom. Parents should also strive to be worthy models for their children, earning their respect through genuine actions and not just demanding it.

In 1 Peter 2:17, Peter instructs us to honor all people, regardless of their status. This is actually the application of Jesus' Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12 which emphasizes treating others as we wish to be treated. Conducting ourselves with honor and respect, has the power to transform relationships and foster a culture of respect.

Who else must we train our kids to respect?

Honor Father and Mother (Exodus 20:12)

The Fifth Commandment emphasizes the importance of honoring parents. Honor is a foundational principle of godliness, teaching us humility and respect. Recognizing authority

figures and showing honor sets the stage for divine blessings. In the New Testament Paul repeated this principle when he commanded children to obey their parents *in the Lord, because this is right*, Ephesians 6.1. In the next two verses, he quotes the fifth commandment directly.

Respect Authority (Romans 13:1-2)

Submitting to authority is an act of honoring God's order. David's honoring of King Saul sets an example of honoring even difficult authority. Honoring authority figures impacts our workplaces, homes, and society.

Honor the Lord with Your Wealth (Proverbs 3:9)

Giving back to God is an act of honor, reflecting our dependence on Him. Our attitude towards material possessions reflects our spiritual priorities. Honoring God with our resources invites His provision and blessings into our lives.

Show God Respect by Embracing Your Purpose

Honoring God involves recognizing and fulfilling our God-given purpose.

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything, 1 Peter 4.10-11.

God designed us with unique talents and abilities for a specific reason. Using our gifts to honor God invites His blessing into our lives.

Why We Show Respect

Honor Attracts God's Honor (1 Samuel 2:30)

God promises to honor those who honor Him. Acts of honor demonstrate our recognition of God's sovereignty and authority. When we show honor, we align ourselves with God's divine favor and blessing.

Honor: A Crown of Glory (Psalms 8:5)

God crowns humanity with glory and honor, signifying our inherent value. Honoring others is an expression of recognizing the divine image within them. This practice promotes unity and harmony in our relationships.

The Impact of Respecting Others

When we move with respect toward others, it has the power to transform lives, relationships, and communities. Choosing to honor can bring healing, cooperation, and success.

Important Take Aways

Honor is a powerful spiritual principle that transforms lives and attracts God's blessings. As we intentionally practice honor towards God, authority figures, and all people, we align ourselves with God's divine order. Just as David's act of honor elevated Mephibosheth's life, our acts of honor can bring about positive change in our lives and the lives of those around us. Let us strive to make honor a cornerstone of our daily interactions, allowing God's blessings to flow through our commitment to godly respect.

Practically Speaking – How Must We Respect Others?

God expects His people to be respectful, and we can demonstrate this by following some practical steps:

Rate others as valuable as yourself, recognizing that all individuals have shortcomings and weaknesses, Philippians 2:3-4; Galatians 6:1-2.

Express the love that God has given you by having a forgiving spirit and not holding others to higher standards than ourselves, Ephesians 4.31-32; 5.1-3.

Remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and strive to be like Him in our interactions with others, Philippians 2.5-8.

Prove your beliefs by putting them into practice and following through with your actions, 1 John 3.18.

Engage in meaningful relationships with others, even though it involves personal risks, Romans 12.12.

Confess your failures, recognizing that no one is perfect, and seek forgiveness from God and others, James 5.16.

Treat others as you wish to be treated, adhering to the golden rule, Matthew 7.12.

Conclusion:

Every person, group, and authority is precious to God and deserves respect. As Christians, we should strive to give respect rather than seeking it for ourselves. Remember the wise words of Calvin Coolidge, "Honor has been the reward for what he gave." So, let us start today by respecting God and showing respect to all people in our lives.

Examine your heart and actions. Are you truly giving others the respect they deserve? Are you honoring God in every aspect of your life? If you feel the need to grow in respect and love for others, seek God's guidance to become more Christ-like in your attitudes and behaviors.

Pray For:

1. The ability to embrace sacrificial love, recognizing that God is the ultimate source of love and that we are called to love one another as He has loved us.
2. The humility to value others above yourself, striving to consider their needs and interests before your own, just as God demonstrated through Christ.

3. Guidance in honoring everyone, from authority figures to family members, and for God to teach you to show respect and love to all people as an expression of your reverence for Him.

For Discussion

1. How would you describe the state of respect in today's fast-paced society? What factors contribute to the diminishing value of respect in our interactions?
2. According to the lesson, what role does self-centeredness play in overshadowing the need for respect? How does this attitude contrast with the Christian call to serve others?
3. Reflecting on 1 John 4:7-11 and Philippians 2:3-4, how does love connect to the concepts of respect and deference? How does understanding God's sacrificial love influence our ability to respect others?
4. In the lesson, the word "respect" is explored in its original meaning of "regard, look back." How does this definition provide insight into the essence of respect? How does it relate to showing deferential regard and esteem to others?
5. What are some words often linked to the concept of respect? How do honor, regard, deference, veneration, and reverence contribute to a deeper understanding of respect?
6. What scriptural references from both the Old and New Testaments emphasize the importance of honor and respect? How do these references guide us in understanding the transformative impact of these virtues?

7. According to Acts 17:28, how should our relationship with God be characterized? What dangers come with compartmentalizing our faith? How can we cultivate a profound and all-encompassing connection with God?
8. In 1 Peter 2:17, we are instructed to honor all people, regardless of their status. How does this align with Jesus' Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12? How can adopting this principle foster a culture of respect in our interactions?
9. Discuss the importance of honoring parents as highlighted in Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:1-3. How does honoring parents connect to foundational principles of godliness and humility?
10. Reflect on Romans 13:1-2 and the concept of submitting to authority. How does honoring authority figures impact various aspects of our lives, including workplaces, homes, and society?
11. Reflect on Psalms 8:5 and the concept of humanity being crowned with glory and honor. How does honoring others reflect our recognition of the divine image within them? How does this practice promote unity and harmony?
12. Discuss personal experiences or examples where respecting others has led to transformation in lives, relationships, or communities. How can choosing to honor bring about healing, cooperation, and success?
13. Review the practical steps outlined in the lesson for respecting others. Which of these steps resonate with you the most? How can you actively incorporate these practices into

your daily interactions?